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ACTION ARA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9457  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1199

E.O. 12065 GDS 2-9-85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P  
TAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATION LAUNCHED AGAINST CATHOLIC  
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A MIGNONE-HARRIS MOMCON 2-2-79; B MULLEN-HARRIS MEMCON  
2-8-79; C BARABARAS-HARRIS MEMCON 2-8-79

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE,  
PERMANENT ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE AND DAIA OFFICIAL REGARDING  
A RELATIVELY LARGE ANTI SUBVERSIVE OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY THE  
FIRST ARMY CORPS. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, ON NOVEMBER 29, 1978,  
AN OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED AGAINST FORMER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
RUN "CASA DE LA JUVENTUD" AND A CATHOLIC POLITICAL MOVEMENT  
CALL "CRISTIANOS PARA LA LIBERACION."

3. THE MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION ACCORDING TO  
THE ABOVE SOURCES, HAD ONLY  
OLD ADDRESSES OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE AS BOTH SUSPECT ORGANIZATION  
HAD BEEN DISBANDED IN THE MID-1970'S. THE YOUTH'S PARENTS WERE  
VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY PRESSURED TO PROVIDE CURRENT ADDRESSES  
OF THE SUSPECTS. ACTING ON THIS INFORMATION, BETWEEN SIXTY  
[REDACTED]  
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AND SEVENTY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WERE ARRESTED. THEIR  
YOUNG CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT TO THE GRANDPARENTS'

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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HOMES. MANY OF THE APARTMENTS WERE REPORTED RANSACKED AND ROBBED.

4. AN OFFICER REPORTEDLY ATTACHED A SIGNED SEAL TO ONE OF THE THE RAIDED APARTMENTS WHICH WAS PHOTOGRAPHED AND PRESENTED BY CHURCH OFFICIALS TO SENIOR FIRST COPRS AUTHORITIES WHO ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND PROMISED TO EXPEDITE THE RELEASE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE. REPORTS DIFFER AS TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF CARDINAL ARAMBURU IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE.

5. ALL THE YOUTHS WERE REPORTEDLY MALTREATED AND TORTURED DURING THEIR INTERROGATION REGARDING THE CHURCH AND SUBVERSION. AS OF EARLY FEBRUARY ALL OF THE YOUTHS HAD BEEN REPORTED RELEASED EXCEPT FOR TWO INDIVIDUALS--A MR. FONTANELLA AND A MRS. VACARO. EACH OF THE RELEASED YOUTHS REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN GIVEN A TELEPHONE NUMBER AND IS OBLIGED TO REPORT DAILY HIS OR HER WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY IN 1978 OF TARGETING OF CATHOLIC ACTIVISTS. ACCORDING TO THE NUNCIATURE, THE CATHLIC MOVEMENT "CRISTIANOS PARA LA LIBERACION" WAS RUN BY TWO THIRLD WORLD PRIESTS, FATHER PABLO CAZZARI AND CARLOS BUSTOS, WHO WERE ABDUCTED IN LATE 1976 AND EARLY 1977 RESPECTIVELY AND ARE PRESUMED BY THE NUNCIATURE AND OTHER CHURCH OFFICALS TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. END COMMENT.  
CASTRO  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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